

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, last week, I came to this floor on two separate occasions with Senator SANDERS to talk about the need for direct assistance to working families in my State—in the State of Missouri—and all across this country. I said that I was willing to use every tool at my disposal to make sure that this body acted to give direct assistance to working people in need as part of COVID relief. I said then, and I say it again today, that working people should be first in line for COVID relief, not last. They should be the first consideration, not some afterthought.

I am pleased to report that we were told today, as negotiations are ongoing about a COVID relief bill, that direct assistance to working people and working families is in the bill, that working people will be getting assistance.

I want to say once again here on this floor, as that package continues to take shape, how important it is that working families be able to count on some relief and how important it is for this body to prioritize working people over government, over big businesses, over government programs, and to give assistance directly to the people themselves.

Look, people know how to spend their money and what is best for their own families. The quickest way to help people in need is to give them direct assistance and let them make the choices for their own families, for their own kids, not to have to wait in line for some program, not to have to talk to some bureaucrat but to be able to make their own choices direct, with assistance that comes direct to them. That is going to be in this bill, I understand.

I am sure as heck going to continue to fight to see that it is in the bill and that any relief that is passed by the Senate prioritizes working people with direct relief.

Some have questioned whether this is really necessary. Some have said: Well, it is not an emergency, and this bill is only for emergencies, and direct assistance isn't an emergency.

To that I say: Is it not an emergency that working people are having to line up for food—literally, line up for food—in this country, in this day and age, because they don't have enough money to go purchase nutrition for their own children?

Just think about what is happening in my own State.

Let me tell you about Monark Baptist Church in Neosho, MO, down in Southwest Missouri. They had a food distribution program. They have done this for years, by the way, but as COVID intensified this past year, they stood up their efforts. Neighbors came together and donated. They got all the food that they could. They went out there in Neosho, MO—not a huge town.

Monark Baptist Church went out and started distributing food.

Do you know they distributed food to hundreds of families for hours. When they had run out of the food, there were over 50 cars—not individuals, cars. Fifty cars were still in line, as far as the eye could see, having driven miles and miles around from neighboring counties to come for the help.

These are working people. These are not folks who want some handout. These are working people. These are proud people. These are people who don't want government to do stuff for them. They want to be able to get back up on their own feet and provide for themselves.

Government shut down their businesses and took away their jobs this past year and put them in this position of, in some cases, outright desperation.

Let me tell you about a gal from Kansas City, 22 years old. Her first name is Mars. I won't share her last name just for her own privacy. You know, she has talked to me and told me about her plight. She moved to Kansas City earlier this year, right around the time the pandemic started. She got an apartment. She was getting set up and getting going. Then, the pandemic hit. Then, the shutdown hit. Then, she lost her job. Then, she lost her plumbing. The water wouldn't work. She complained to the landlord. They wouldn't do anything. The ceiling collapsed. The landlord wouldn't do anything. Then she didn't have enough money to make rent, and, the other day, she woke up with a 10-day eviction notice out on her front door.

These are people who need help, not because they don't know how to work but because they do know how to work and the government has put them in the position that they are facing today. This pandemic has put them in the position they are facing today. What they want is the ability to get back up on their own two feet and to provide for themselves by the work of their own hands. That is what direct assistance to working families will do.

So to those who say it is not an emergency, I urge you to open your eyes and to look around at the people who are hurting, who are struggling, who are desperate for help.

I have heard that it is said: Well, it is not stimulative. What a word—direct assistance isn't stimulative, as if the American people are knobs and dials to be twisted and turned around to get a desired outcome, as if the economy is something to be micromanaged in Washington, DC.

I am not interested in stimulus. I am interested in helping working people survive. I am not interested in micromanaging this economy. I am interested in getting working people back up on their feet so they can manage their own lives. That is what this is about. That is why the need is so great. That is what we are trying to accomplish.

We have a chance to do this, to get this done, to get accomplished here

something that we can be proud of before Christmas, to send a message to the American people that they matter, to send a message to working people in my State and in every State in this Country that they matter and that we are here fighting for them; that we look forward to the day when they are back at work, ready to work, able to support themselves and their families, and that we are on the path to getting there.

That is the message that we can send. That is the message that we must send. I will not leave this body until it is accomplished.

I promise you this. If I have anything to say about it, we will not be leaving here before Christmas until direct assistance is on the way to the working people of this Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. REED. Madam President, I want to take some time to thank and commend my colleagues who are departing the Senate. All of these Members have devoted themselves to serving the Nation and serving their States. We are all better off for their service.

Let me begin with my friend and colleague TOM UDALL. TOM inherited a family tradition of fighting for the American West and its citizens. His time in the Senate only added to the Udall legacy.

TOM has been one of our Chamber's leaders on conservation and the environment. He championed the creation of monuments and worked to block the Trump administration's harmful environmental policies. And, this year, he helped secure permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was pioneered by TOM's father, Stewart Udall.

TOM's commitment to the health of our Nation's environment has always been evident, and I was proud to hand off my role as the Democratic leader of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to TOM in 2015. During his tenure, funding for the Interior appropriations bill grew by 25 percent, and more than 100 anti-environmental riders were blocked. These victories would have been impossible without TOM's ability to connect with his fellow Members and get things done. They are also a testament to TOM's deep knowledge of America's lands and resources.

Of course, TOM's successes go beyond his environmental work. TOM has worked tirelessly to ensure our Nation's Native Americans receive the respect and support they are entitled to. He salvaged and ultimately passed bipartisan legislation updating the Toxic Substances Control Act for the first time since 1976, which was a big victory for public health. I was also pleased to work with TOM to pass legislation in 2016 to help reduce and prevent suicide among adolescents and young adults.

Finally, I am especially grateful for TOM's efforts to increase resources for

the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These Federal agencies are part of Rhode Island's late and great Senator Claiborne Pell's lasting legacy. They lift our spirits, tell our stories, and strengthen our sense of community. TOM's work in advancing these agencies has enriched our country and helped bring so many people together.

Thankfully, TOM has said that, while he is leaving the Senate, he is not retiring from public service. I know New Mexico and our country are better off for that. I wish TOM and his family the best as they go forward.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Madam President, let me turn now to my dear friend DOUG JONES. I have had the privilege to serve alongside DOUG JONES both on the Armed Services Committee and the Banking Committee during his time in the Senate.

DOUG has had a long and successful career helping those who need it most and doing what is right even if the price is. Yet I was still struck, time and again, by his dedication to the welfare of our servicemembers and veterans and their families—something I witnessed firsthand when we traveled together to visit servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan last year, and nowhere was DOUG's commitment to these Americans more apparent than in last year's National Defense Authorization Act.

DOUG was greatly troubled that thousands of Gold Star families were being unfairly shortchanged by certain laws related to survivor benefits. So, DOUG, like he has throughout his professional life, went to work to right an injustice. He introduced the bipartisan Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act and was the Democratic lead on the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act. I was proud to help DOUG enact these bills, which allow military widows and widowers and their children to receive the full survivor benefits they are entitled to, as part of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. DOUG's work on these issues has directly improved the lives of tens of thousands of Gold Star families who have given so much to our country.

Naturally, DOUG worked hard again this year to shape the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, and he shaped it for the better. The legislation includes a provision written by DOUG requiring a GAO audit of continuing efforts to ensure that racial and gender disparities in the military justice system are properly addressed and eliminated. He was also instrumental during the markup of the fiscal year 2021 NDAA when the committee voted to remove the names of Confederate soldiers from our military installations, and in the wake of the deadly shooting at Naval Air Station Pensacola, DOUG met with the family of a slain Navy ensign, Kaleb Watson, and subsequently fought for two specific provisions in the fiscal year 2021 NDAA

to require military installations to plan or conduct live emergency response training events to help prevent such tragic shootings in the future.

DOUG also continued his career-long fight for civil rights while in the Senate. He enacted the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act, which requires the review and release of unsolved civil rights case records to help deliver justice for the victims' families, and he has been a passionate defender of voting rights for all Americans.

DOUG has never been afraid to take a difficult vote or to speak out for what is right. We will miss DOUG's persistence and conscientiousness in the Senate. I salute him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Madam President, with respect to Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER, bipartisanship and compromise are synonymous, and they have also always been central to the success of this institution. No one has been more of a contributing factor to the successes we have had than LAMAR ALEXANDER, and he has embodied these principles during his time in the Senate.

I first had the privilege of working with him on the Joint Economic Committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which he now chairs, and we have spent many years serving together on the Appropriations Committee.

LAMAR is focused more on getting things done than on making headlines. He worked across the aisle to pass landmark laws, including the Every Student Succeeds Act, the 21st Century Cures Act, and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. He and I also worked together to enact laws that reduce infant deaths and make children's medications safer. These laws have improved the lives of countless Americans. They are a testament to LAMAR's work ethic and the influence he has in the Senate.

LAMAR has also not shied away from tackling contentious issues. I have always appreciated his willingness to take lonely positions, particularly with respect to his thoughtful work on matters such as immigration and government shutdowns.

I wish him well in the future. He has left an extraordinary legacy and example for all of us.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Madam President, PAT ROBERTS has had a distinguished career in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. His work has touched on many issues, but he has been particularly dedicated to preserving the strength of our national defense and ensuring the well-being of our servicemembers.

PAT's concern for the defense of our Nation is longstanding. He began his public service as a young man in the U.S. Marine Corps, and he has displayed the steadfast resolve emblematic of marines throughout his time in Congress.

I observed this commitment firsthand during our years serving and traveling together as part of the Senate Armed Services Committee. PAT successfully pushed for the creation of a more modern refueling and transport tanker for our Air Force. He helped secure improvements at Fort Leavenworth and created the first Senate caucus exclusively dedicated to supporting the U.S. Marine Corps.

As Chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, PAT ably led the effort to build a memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Washington, DC, and I am delighted that, after years of PAT's hard work and leadership—and I observed this firsthand during my few years as a member of the Commission—the memorial was officially opened and dedicated in September. That, too, will be a lasting tribute to PAT ROBERTS' work.

Beyond his defense work, PAT was greatly concerned with the well-being of our farmers. He is the only Member to have authored and enacted farm bills in both the House and the Senate. We also worked closely together to pass legislation upgrading our Nation's trauma centers to ensure that severely injured patients receive the best possible care.

PAT was always quick with quips and brought levity to this body. I thank him for his spirit and his lifelong service.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL B. ENZI

Madam President, MIKE ENZI has long served the people of Wyoming with distinction. MIKE and I spent many years working together on the Banking Committee and on the HELP Committee, which he chaired during some of my service on that committee. I have always appreciated his decency and thoughtfulness.

He spent his time in the Senate advancing his "80-20" approach to legislating. He sought to focus on the 80 percent of issues, where both sides could come to an agreement, rather than on the 20 percent of issues where he felt an agreement was unreachable. He worked quietly behind the scenes to get things done, and he got things done.

MIKE is one of the few U.S. Senators with an accounting background, and he and I worked closely together to bring greater awareness to financial literacy issues, as well as to create the Senate Financial Literacy Caucus to help Americans develop and maintain healthy financial habits.

I am also especially grateful for MIKE's support for legislation I led in 2010 updating museum and library services to better meet the needs of Americans. As the then-ranking member of the HELP Committee, MIKE played a pivotal role in securing the law's passage.

Our work together was of great importance, and I will miss his thoughtfulness and determination. I wish MIKE well in all of his future endeavors.